

CORNFIELD STATE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARTER

BACKGROUND

On September 28, 2001 the Governor approved Senate Bill No. 1177 relating to the acquisition, planning design, environmental assessment, and environmental cleanup of the 32-acre parcel known as the "Cornfield" rail yards in the City of Los Angeles. This Bill was subsequently filed with the Secretary of State on October 1, 2001.

The bill requires the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee, which would be responsible for assisting the department, in an advisory capacity, to plan for interim and permanent land uses and facilities through the general planning process for the Cornfield site.

Further, the bill states that "...the development of the Cornfield property as a public park presents a unique opportunity to create a major park, open space, and recreation complex in downtown Los Angeles. The site's history as a cornfield in the 19th century and as the location of the city's original aqueduct presents significant opportunities for learning. A rail transit station is planned to be located at the in the vicinity of the property, making it easily accessible to millions of low-income, transit-dependent families, senior citizens, youths, persons with disabilities, and children from across urban Los Angeles. The Cornfield site offers a once-in-a-century opportunity to create a world-class park and playground, and to develop other compatible uses in one of the city's most diverse and park-poor communities. Urban parks have historically played a pivotal role in shaping the success of cities by bringing residents and visitors new resources for environmental enrichment, educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities, and otherwise enhancing urban community life."

PURPOSE & GOALS

The Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee's purpose is to assist the Department of Parks and Recreation, in an advisory capacity, to plan for interim and permanent land uses and facilities through the general planning process for the Cornfield site. The goals of this Advisory Committee are as follows:

- The Advisory Committee shall present to the Director of Parks and Recreation, not later than December 28, 2002, a list of prioritized development recommendations for the long-range plans for the site that meet the needs of Californians and the general public, including park and recreational facilities and programs serving residents within communities surrounding the Cornfield rail yards in central Los Angeles.
- Assist the Department of Parks and Recreation in surveying statewide and community preferences for appropriate uses in an urban state park.
- Present recommendations for the use and development of the Cornfield rail yards property which conform to the classifications and uses for State Parks as defined in the Public Resources Code.

In accordance with Senate Bill 1177, the Director of Parks and Recreation shall terminate the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee after the adoption of a general plan for the State Park.

PRODUCTS AND DELIVERABLES

The Cornfields State Park Advisory committee is to present to the Director of Parks and Recreation no later than December 28, 2002, a list of prioritized long-range development recommendations for the site.

These development priorities are to be ratified by the committee pursuant to the decision-making provisions established herein.

MEMBERSHIP

The Director of Parks and Recreation shall convene and appoint the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee. The members of the committee shall be selected by the Director, who shall include, in the advisory committee, representatives from entities, including, but not limited to, local, state, and federal agencies, environmental, historic preservation, and cultural organizations, museums, educational institutions and organizations, individuals and private sector entities, and community-based organizations, including Asian-Pacific Americans, Chinese Americans, Latino community organizations, and other interested ethnic groups.

In accordance with the above, the Director shall appoint committee members through an application process. Any person or organization meeting the above criteria is encouraged to submit an application. Members are asked to represent a specific community or organization. Members may be asked to chair smaller working groups. Members are expected to be full participants. Given the volume of information to be considered and the short time frame, regular attendance by the member is essential.

Members shall not receive compensation for time spent on the Advisory Committee from the Department of Parks and Recreation. All Member Designees must be identified and approved by the Director in advance, fully briefed and able to represent the member during decision making. Facilitators will be responsible for managing dialogue in meetings.

The Director of Parks and Recreation will have the sole authority to determine the size of the State Park Advisory Committee and any increase thereof.

DECISION-MAKING

The Advisory Committee will be primarily an informational and coordinating body and will make every effort to seek consensus recommendations, however, it is recognized that with such a diverse group, it may prove difficult to reach a consensus on certain recommendations or priorities. The Advisory Committee will take formal votes on development priorities. Each member will have one vote, cast by themselves or his or her pre-approved designated alternate. Voting will require a quorum of sixty percent (60%) of council members present for the vote, and two-thirds super majority will be needed for a vote to be affirmed.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Department shall convene a series of committee meetings to review progress in accomplishing its purpose and to prepare development priorities for vote as needed. A Facilitator provided by the Department will produce and distribute information pertaining to Committee activities on a regular basis.

COMMUNICATION

Meeting notes will be provided within ten working days of the meeting. Concepts or recommendations adopted by the full committee may also be released along with common statements of DPR work.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

District Superintendent Russ Guiney will serve as the principal Department resource at Advisory Committee meetings. Lisa Beutler with the California State University Sacramento will serve as the lead facilitator for the group.